

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Amended): A method for treating essential hypertension, comprising administering to a patient with an elevated blood pressure an effective amount of an angiogenic factor or an agonist thereof a vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF), such that the elevated blood pressure is reduced.
2. (New): The method of claim 1, wherein filtration or excretion of a solute is improved as compared to the pre-treatment condition of the patient.
3. (New): The method of claim 2, wherein the solute is sodium chloride.
4. (New): The method of claim 2, wherein the solute is potassium chloride.
5. (New): The method of claim 1, wherein said VEGF is selected from the group consisting of native hVEGF121 (FIG. 6, SEQ ID NO: 1), native hVEGF145 (FIG. 7, SEQ ID NO: 2), native hVEGF165 (FIG. 8, SEQ ID NO: 3), native hVEGF189 (FIG. 9, SEQ ID NO: 4), and native hVEGF206 (FIG. 10, SEQ ID NO: 5).
6. (New): The method of claim 1, wherein said VEGF lacks the ability to bind heparin.
7. (New): The method of claim 6, wherein said VEGF comprises an amino acid alteration within its heparin-binding domain.
8. (New): The method of claim 1, wherein said VEGF is a native hVEGF121 (FIG. 6, SEQ ID NO: 1).
9. (New): The method of claim 1, comprising the administration of two or more VEGFs.

10. (New): The method of claim 1, wherein said VEGF is coadministered with another angiogenic factor.